

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and
Education**

DECISION NO:

19/00071

Unrestricted

Key decision: **YES**

Subject:

Proposal to Expand Thamesview School from 150 places to 210 places in September 2021

Proposed Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021

Reason(s) for proposed decision:

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent.

KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesend from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 74 Year 7 places (2.5FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 316 places (10.5FE) by 2023/24.

Thamesview School is a popular school and the proposal to increase the number of Secondary places at the school is therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular & successful schools. The proposal will confirm the school's admission number of 180 and add an additional 30 places taking the school PAN up to 210 for September 2021. It will be achieved through building additional accommodation and service space on the Thamesview site.

A public notice is therefore needed to discern the opinions and comments of stakeholders.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. Thamesview School is an inclusive, non-selective, co-educational school. No adverse impacts have been identified at this stage; however, the outcome of the public consultation will enable KCC to test out these assumptions.

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Thamesview/consultationHome>

Financial Implications

Capital

A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being between £4.0m and £4.5m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.

In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure reported here is a budget estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed design work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education for a key decision to be made.

If Members support the progression of this proposal, capital will be spent developing the design. This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.

Revenue

Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.

In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Pupil Growth Funding

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

Legal Implications

These proposals will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can fair access to school places" as set out in the Kent Commissioning Plan.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This proposal has not been to Cabinet Committee yet.

A consultation was held from 24th June 2019 to 19th July 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 4 July 2019. The consultation was held for the community and other stakeholders, and included the following groups: all schools in the Gravesham Borough, Elected Members (Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council), Parish and Town Councils, Local MPs, Dioceses of Rochester and Southwark, Residents groups where known and Children's Centres

Neither KCC nor the school received any responses. Four members of staff attended the drop-in session, but none wished to complete a response form.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

There are seven secondary schools in the Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group. These are: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet School for Girls, Northfleet Technology College, Saint George's CE School (Gravesend), St. John's Catholic Comprehensive School and Thamesview School.

Of these, St George's CE School, Northfleet School for Girls and Meopham School are either being expanded or are the subject of a future proposal to expand. Northfleet Technology College is under feasibility for an expansion and Longfield School has been offering additional places under a local arrangement for several years. Thamesview School is the only remaining candidate for expansion.

If no action is taken, Kent County Council will find it extremely difficult to provide sufficient local secondary school places in Gravesham borough.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken, and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

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date